

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14, 16, 25-28, and 30-31 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 is independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1.

Rejection(s) Under 35 U.S.C § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 11, 12, 14, 16, 25-28, and 30-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,445,065 ("Waldrum"). For the reasons set forth below, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Embodiments disclosed in the present application are directed to a valve having a valve body controllable by the pressure of a cleaning fluid. In accordance with one embodiment shown in Figure 7, at a low pressure, the piston slide element **80** closes the second outlet **28**, and the cleaning fluid flows from the inlet **24** through the first outlet **26** (referred to as path A). At a higher pressure, the piston slide element **80** starts moving to the left against the spring **52**, and the cleaning fluid flows from the inlet **24** through both the first and second outlets **26**, **28** (referred to as paths A and B). At an even higher pressure, the piston slide element **80** closes the first outlet **26** this time, and the cleaning fluid flows from the inlet **24** through the second outlet **28** (referred to as path B). That is, as the pressure of the cleaning fluid changes, the piston slide element **80** determines the proportion of cleaning fluid that flows through paths A and B.

Accordingly, independent claim 1 requires, in part, that the valve body is controlled by the pressure of the cleaning fluid in at least two valve positions such that *the valve body determines, without involvement of an additional valve body, through which path of the first path, the second path, and combination thereof the cleaning fluid flows.*

With respect to Waldrum, the Examiner has indicated, at page 2 of the instant Office Action, that Waldrum shows a plurality of nozzles 18, an inlet 34, outlets 60, and a valve member 48. However, the ball 48 of Waldrum is provided merely to prevent dripping when a spraying action is stopped. The ball 48 cannot determine through which path a fluid flows. This is evidenced by Waldrum's disclosure in col. 3, line 73 - col. 4, line 10, and col. 4, lines 25 - lines 35:

The ball 48 serves to provide an instant shut-off action whenever the fluid pressure is relieved as when a shutoff valve (not shown) is closed whenever it is desired to stop the spraying action. During the spraying action the liquid pressure works against the ball 48, and thus spaces it from the tapered sides defining tapering area 36 with the liquid pressure forcing the ball 48 to move against the bias of spring 42. Hence, so long as the spraying operation continues, the liquid pressure forces the ball 48 against the spring 42 and the liquid thereby can pass through the large open area 38 to the port 46) into discharge line 16 for spraying through nozzles 18 as will be discussed hereinafter.

*... The ball 68 also serves substantially to eliminate dripping when the fluid pressure is shutoff. The ball 68 is similar in operation to the ball 48 and the ball 68 may be either spring actuated or gravity actuated. It is seen that when the liquid pressure is turned on the ball 68 will be moved upwardly from the beveled surface 62 in order to permit liquid discharge. However, as soon as the liquid pressure is turned off the ball 68 will return to the position of FIG. 3 either under spring action or by virtue of gravity and *thereby prevent further liquid escape.* (emphasis added)*

That is, when the fluid from the port 34 pushes the ball 48 against the spring 42, the fluid can flow from the port 34 through the plurality of ports 60 corresponding to the plurality of nozzles 12 (referred to paths 1, 2, 3, ...). However, Waldrum does not suggest that

the ball selects through which of paths 1, 2, 3, ... the fluid can flow. In the spray apparatus of Waldrum, there are only two choices: flowing through all paths or not flowing at all. No choice can be made between paths by the ball 48. This is because Waldrum intended to provide the ball 48 simply to prevent dripping, but not to select fluid paths. As such, Waldrum fails to teach or suggest that the valve body is controlled by the pressure of the cleaning fluid in at least two valve positions such that *the valve body determines, without involvement of an additional valve body, through which path of the first path, the second path, and combination thereof the cleaning fluid flows*, as required by independent claim 1.

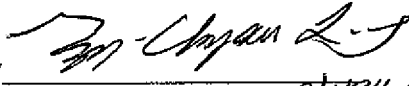

In view of the above, Waldrum fails to show or suggest all limitations of independent claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Waldrum for at least the above reasons. Dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this application to be in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 17102.013001).

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